

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Staatz House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1824 Wolf Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Junction City vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state KANSAS code KS county Dickinson code 041 zip code 66441

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property XX meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide XX locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard O. Pankratz  
Signature of certifying official

11-18-04

Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Staatz House

Property Name

Dickinson County, Kansas

County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing Noncontributing

1 buildings  
       sites  
       structures  
       objects  
1 Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**0**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Massed form plan       **Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestoneroof OTHER: Compositionwalls STONE: Limestoneother       **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

**Staatz House**

Property Name

**Dickinson County, Kansas**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT****Period of Significance**1867-1954**Significant Dates**1867, 1909**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**unknown**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Staatz House

Property Name

Dickinson County, Kansas

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 14\_679934\_4303245 3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Joleen Dibben, Melissa Fisher-Isaacs, Christy Davisorganization Kansas State Historical Society date September 2004street & number 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave telephone 785-272-8681city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615-1099**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Monte and Rebecca Dibbenstreet & number 1824 Wolf Road telephone 785-257-3316city or town Junction City state KS zip code 66441

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Description**

**Introduction**

The Staatz House is located 5.6 miles north of Woodbine, Dickinson County, Kansas, in Section 6, Range 5 of Liberty Township. The house sits on a 10.8-acre plot subdivided from the 228-acre farm in 1991. Although the plot includes associated outbuildings, described later in this document, the nomination includes only the house.

**House Exterior**

The house, which stands along the bank of Lyon Creek near the junction with Carry Creek, is a two-and-a-half story, side-gabled, massed-plan structure built of native limestone. The house's front elevation, which faces east, features sawn and dressed ashlar limestone blocks laid in regular courses. The remaining three elevations are of semi-dressed ashlar limestone laid in irregular courses. The house is supported by a limestone foundation and includes a partial cellar. The original part of the house, built in 1867, features an east-facing facade marked by five evenly spaced second-story windows and two first-floor windows on either side of the centrally placed front door. Each of the house's windows is accentuated by heavy a limestone sill and lintel. The basic limestone structure remains unaltered on the exterior but is in need of repointing. A centered gable, sheathed with decorative shingles, and a one-story porch roofed in tin and supported by six segmented concrete Ionic columns, were added to the front elevation sometime before 1919, when the third generation of the family moved into the home. (These changes may have occurred in 1909 when the windows were replaced and interior woodwork was changed.)

The north-facing elevation is fenestrated by three rows of windows - two small windows in the gable, two second-floor windows, and one single window and a double window on the first floor. The south elevation fenestration differs from that of the north elevation only in that it has three rows of equally spaced single windows.

The rear, west elevation, of the Staatz House features a second floor punctuated by two closely spaced windows near the north end and a single window near the south end. A single window near the south end fenestrates the first floor. A one-story clapboard addition has been appended to the rear facade of the original structure. The northern section of the addition has a shed roof, a single north-facing window, and two west-facing windows. The southern section of the addition has a hipped roof. A door, flanked on the south side by a ribbon of four windows and on the other side by a single window, provides access to the addition. A single-pane west-facing window also provides illumination to the interior of the addition.

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**House Interior**

The floor plans for the first and second floors feature central hallways parallel to the stairs. The first and second-floor hallways are each flanked by two rooms. The main floor of the original structure consisted of four rooms, which have been used for various purposes but could be labeled as two bedrooms, living room and dining room. The main lengthwise (living room ceiling) support girder for the upstairs is a hewn log. The two downstairs bedrooms are heated only by leaving the living/dining room doors open. The living/dining room has oak flooring over the prior flooring. The flooring in the hallway and one bedroom is exposed and the other bedroom is carpeted. Continuing west through the dining room, and entering the kitchen, there is a back porch to the left (south) and two pantries to the right (north). There is no plumbing in the limestone part of the house.

The stairway on the main floor leading to the upstairs features a turned and tapered newel, squared where it joins the handrail, and topped with a ball four inches in diameter. There is a one-inch square baluster per step. The fourteen steps are eased and square nosed. This stairway leads to the second floor where there are four bedrooms with a central hallway. At the top of the stairway is a closet for the two west bedrooms to share. The hallway flooring is exposed while the bedrooms have been carpeted. There is no heat in the upstairs.

An 11-step stairway leads to the attic that has flooring. The attic's rafters are crafted from home-sawn 2x5s.

The partial cellar has a concrete floor. Visible in the ceiling of the cellar are the hewn logs used for the support pillars and girders.

**Outbuildings**

Included on the 10.8-acre plot are a frame horse/hay/grain barn, a frame double machine shed, and a frame washhouse, all in use but in deteriorating condition. It is unknown as to when any of these buildings were built. A chicken house and two brooder houses, which once made up a part of the farmstead, are no longer extant. Although described in this document, the outbuildings are not included in the nomination.

**Barn:**

The two-story horse/hay/grain barn is 34 feet wide and 80 feet long. It is arranged in four sections. The easternmost section was built first using wooden pegs for fasteners instead of nails. It is possible to walk from one end of the barn to the other using the central walkway. On either side of the walkway in the east end is the horse area. A feed bunk is on either side of the walkway. Above this section is a haymow in five-sixths of the area and an oats bin in the other one-sixth.

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Continuing in a westerly direction, the central section of the barn contains a driveway that was first used for unloading loose hay from hay wagons. Sliding doors on the outside enclose the driveway area. Alongside the driveway to the west are two grain bins divided by the central walkway. Sometimes a third grain bin was utilized by closing the central walkway.

On the far west end of the barn, the central walkway continues dividing the area into two sections used primarily for calves and cows. The entire area above this section as well as the two adjacent grain bins is a second section of haymow. This section is built with nails instead of the wooden pegs.

The wood-framed barn is roofed with a combination of galvanized tin and shingles.

Sheds:

The double shed, facing south and immediately east of the house, is used for storage or parking a car or machinery. The west shed is 32 feet wide and 26 feet long. It is divided into thirds. The west third contains a workbench, an overhead storage area for long, lightweight tools, and on the ground level small machinery can be stored. Room for parking a car is in the center while a former corncrib lies to the east. The corncrib floor is concrete while all of the rest of the floor is dirt.

Immediately to the east of the shed just described, and nearly adjacent, is located a second shed of the same size; however, the upper story has flooring and could be used for grain storage. The lower part is open and used for storing machinery. The open part exposes the support pillars made from trees that have a diameter of 9-10 inches, have been cut to five feet in height, and are set on 12-inch cubed limestone rocks. The beams upholding the upper story are two 6 x 8 inch boards each 10 foot-5 inches long with 20-inch splices. The splices are slanted half-lap joints. The far wall (north) supporting the upper story of this shed is limestone and extends beyond the building to the creek bank to form a barricade for the adjacent former hog pen.

The outside walls and the roofs of both sheds are covered with corrugated tin. These buildings are in poor condition and will be replaced when feasible.

Washhouse:

The third building on the acreage is a former washhouse now used as a tool shed. It was moved in 1991 from the concrete pad immediately west of the house to a spot diagonally northeast of the house. It is a one-story wooden building, 10 feet by 20 feet, with white lap siding.

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**Statement of Significance**

The Staatz House (c. 1867) is historically significant under Criterion C. Built by C.W. and Friederika Staatz, pioneers in a long-term migration of Germans from Watertown, Wisconsin, to Kansas's Lyon Creek valley, the Staatz House stands as an excellent example of vernacular architecture in Kansas.

The Staatz family arrived among the vast number of German Lutheran immigrants coming in family groups to the United States from Prussia in the 1840s and 1850s. Charles W. Staatz, with his parents and siblings, emigrated from East Prussia (now a part of Poland) in 1851 (Kensit, p. ix, 38). "There was an influx of Germans coming to America at this time seeking better opportunities, more freedom of religious beliefs, and better economic conditions" (Ibid., p. 39). The Staatz family settled in Watertown, Wisconsin, and stayed there for six years (Ibid., p. 40). In 1856, C.W. Staatz and his wife Friederika were among the first settlers to leave Watertown by wagon train for the Lyon Creek Valley in Kansas. Over a fifteen-year period, Germans from Watertown would continue to immigrate to the Lyon Creek valley in search of cheap land and milder winters (*Peopling the Plains*, 95).

C. W. Staatz purchased his first 40 acres of land from the United States Government on October 7, 1859, for fifty dollars (Deeds, bk. 16, p. 78; General Land Entry Files, 1859). In 1863, C. W. purchased 155.64 acres of bounty land from the United States Government. In support of his application for military bounty land, he stated that he had started building a house on June 2, 1857. He described the house as a 13-foot x 16-foot one-story log cabin with a shingled roof, one door, one window, and one stove. This house was among the first settlements on Lyon Creek. Local tradition holds that Fred Staatz, the second-generation owner of the Staatz House, was the first white boy born in Dickinson County.

By 1867, C. W. had replaced the log cabin with the two and one-half story limestone house that stands on the property today (Connelly, p. 149). The Staatz House is an example of the side-gabled, massed plan form. This form evolved from the earlier I-House type, which features a linear plan that is two rooms wide, one room deep, and two stories tall. Of British origin, the I-House had a tall, steeply pitched roof made necessary by the use of thatch as a roofing material and by construction methods which restrained the roof span to a one-room depth. By 1750, advances in building techniques and the harsh New World winters—which prompted the change from thatch to wood shingles and created a demand for larger interior spaces—together made the massed plan a popular possibility. Virginia and Lee McAlester observe that, although the massed-plan by no means replaced the I-House, "since [1750], massed-plan houses have been a dominant feature of American architecture (*Field Guide to American Houses*, 28)."

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The methods and materials used to construct the Staatz House reflect a variety of practical and cultural matters specific to the time and place in which the structure was built. The massive limestone blocks, sawn and laid in regular courses, provided the occupants with a safe refuge in the sparsely settled Lyon Creek Valley; the ten-inch thick walls also protected residents from the extremes of the Kansas climate. In addition, the scarcity of productive farmland available in their homelands meant that many German immigrants held land ownership in high regard, and were less likely than their Anglo neighbors to move on once they had settled in a place. As a result, the hefty stonework, which characterizes many examples of German-built vernacular stone structures, stems from the Germanic emphasis on permanence in building, and reveals the builder's intent that the house should root his family to the land for generations.

The difficulty and expense of importing machine-finished lumber by wagon meant that settlers like the Staatz family relied heavily on indigenous timber dressed by hand to construct their homes. Like limestone, which was a readily available building material in the area, the hand-hewn logs, which serve as floor joists and the undressed purlins crossing the attic, reflect the necessity of using the materials at hand. The heavy framing also illustrates a traditional building technique that would be largely abandoned as the arrival of the railroad, which occurred in this part of the state at about the same time the Staatz House was being constructed, simplified the transport of finished lumber.

As the railroad made its way across the nation in the post-Civil War era, it brought to the Midwest the advances in building technology made possible by the Industrial Revolution. For those who had already built their homes, applying pre-made architectural embellishments to an existing structure was a way to bring it into step with modern times. By 1919, the austere facade of the Staatz House was modified by a centered gable sheathed in decorative shingles and a porch supported by six concrete segmented Ionic columns. Concrete blocks and columns gained popularity in the early twentieth century after a cast-iron concrete block machine was patented. Blocks were formed on-site using the cast-iron machines available through Sears Catalogue and other retailers. Mould "outfits" for segmented columns, like those found at the Staatz House, were available for approximately \$60.00.

As early settlers on Lyon Creek, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Staatz were vital in establishing the institutions of their fledgling community. They were two of the thirty-one charter members of the Lyona Methodist Church, organized in 1859 (*The Story of the Valley Called Lyona*, p. 11-12), and deeded land to the church for the cemetery in 1866 (Deeds, bk. a, p. 450). Also in 1866, C.W. directed the construction of the first parsonage, built of native stone (*The Story of the Valley Called Lyona*, p. 26), which was razed in the 1980s. He served as a church trustee continuously from 1876 to 1887

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(Quarterly Conference Minutes) and was one of the largest financial supporters of the church (Ibid., p. 7).

C. W. Staatz also served on the local school board. He was elected clerk of the school board on August 10, 1876, and reelected August 14, 1879, serving three-year terms (Clerk & Treas. Record, 1876-1931). C. W. also held the position of Lyons's postmaster from June of 1879 to June of 1882 (National Archives, M841).

When C.W. Staatz passed away on August 8, 1887, the *Daily Union's* news item observed that

Charles W. Staatz, one of the first settlers on Lyons creek, and as true a man as we ever had in Kansas, died last night after a week's sickness. He settled on Lyons creek in 1857. He died of malarial fever. Some half dozen carriage loads of people went out of town to the funeral. He was an honorable, straightforward man. We expect more of a notice from some of his neighbors (C. W. Staatz, 1887).

C. W. had expanded his property and equipment considerably in the 30 years that he lived on Lyon Creek. At the time of his death he had 189 head of cows and calves, 12 horses, numerous pieces of machinery, and 1440 acres of land located in seven sections of Liberty Township (S #85 p. 292, 293).

The Staatz House has been moderately altered since its construction. A telephone was added in 1904 (Farmers Mutual, p. 5) and electricity was added in 1942 (Membership Certificate). The gabled roof originally held wood shingles that have been replaced with asphalt shingles. During a renovation in 1909, the twenty-two original six-over-six windows were replaced with one-over-one double-hung windows. The house's original unplanned woodwork was replaced with planed fir, and the existing staircase was also built at this time.

The construction date of the wood-frame 16' x 29' one-story rear addition, which contains the kitchen and back porch, is unknown. Underneath this addition is a cistern; use of the cistern was discontinued after the 1951 flood when water surrounded the house and filled the cellar and cistern. One of the two pantries was converted into extra kitchen space in the 1940s and the other into a bathroom in the 1950s.

The home's two wood-burning stoves were replaced with two propane stoves in the late 1940s, and the twin red brick chimneys, one on each end of the roof ridge, were removed in the 1950s with the

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advent of propane heat. A wall dividing the living and dining rooms was removed in 1960 to provide a large, L-shaped living room.

In 1927 a new road was built which divided the Lyona church yard from the cemetery and ran in back of the Staatz House (*The Story of the Valley Called Lyona*, p. 37). Prior to that time, the main road was located in front of the Lyona Church and ran between the house and barn on the Staatz farmstead. The new road served as U.S. Highway 77 from 1929 to 1960 when a newer highway was built three miles east (*Ibid.*, p. 36).

Despite these changes, the house that C.W. and Friedericka Staatz built remains at the center of the Staatz family; in 1976, as part of the celebration of the American Bicentennial, the Staatz farm was recognized as a Century Farm, a designation that honored farms that had remained in the ownership of one family for at least 100 years. After C.W. Staatz's death, Fred and Otelia assumed ownership of the house, where they lived until 1919. In September of 1919, their son Wesley married Alma Brehm, and the young couple became the third generation to occupy the house and manage the Staatz family farm. Their children comprised the fourth generation to reside on the farm. Current owners Monte and Rebecca Dibben and their two children, Nicole and Nathan, are the fifth and sixth generations of the Staatz family to occupy the home. In 1991, the Dibbens purchased the 10.8 acres that include the house and outbuildings. They moved into the house in early September of that year. In 1997, following the death of Alma Staatz, the 210 acres of farmland which had been historically associated with the Staatz House was deeded to her son, Merlin Staatz.

As the Staatz House approaches its 140<sup>th</sup> year, it retains the timeless vernacular simplicity of its original design, and continues to stand as a legacy of the earliest settlers in the Lyon Creek valley.

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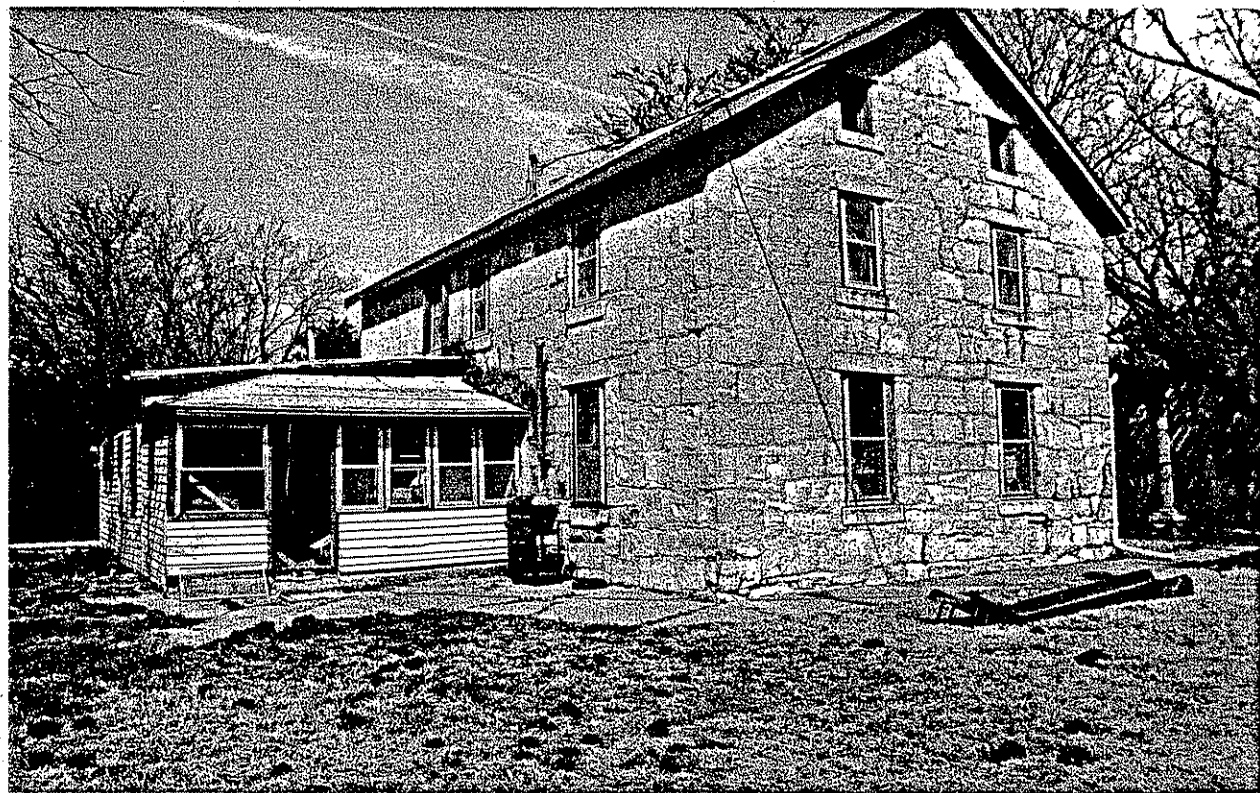
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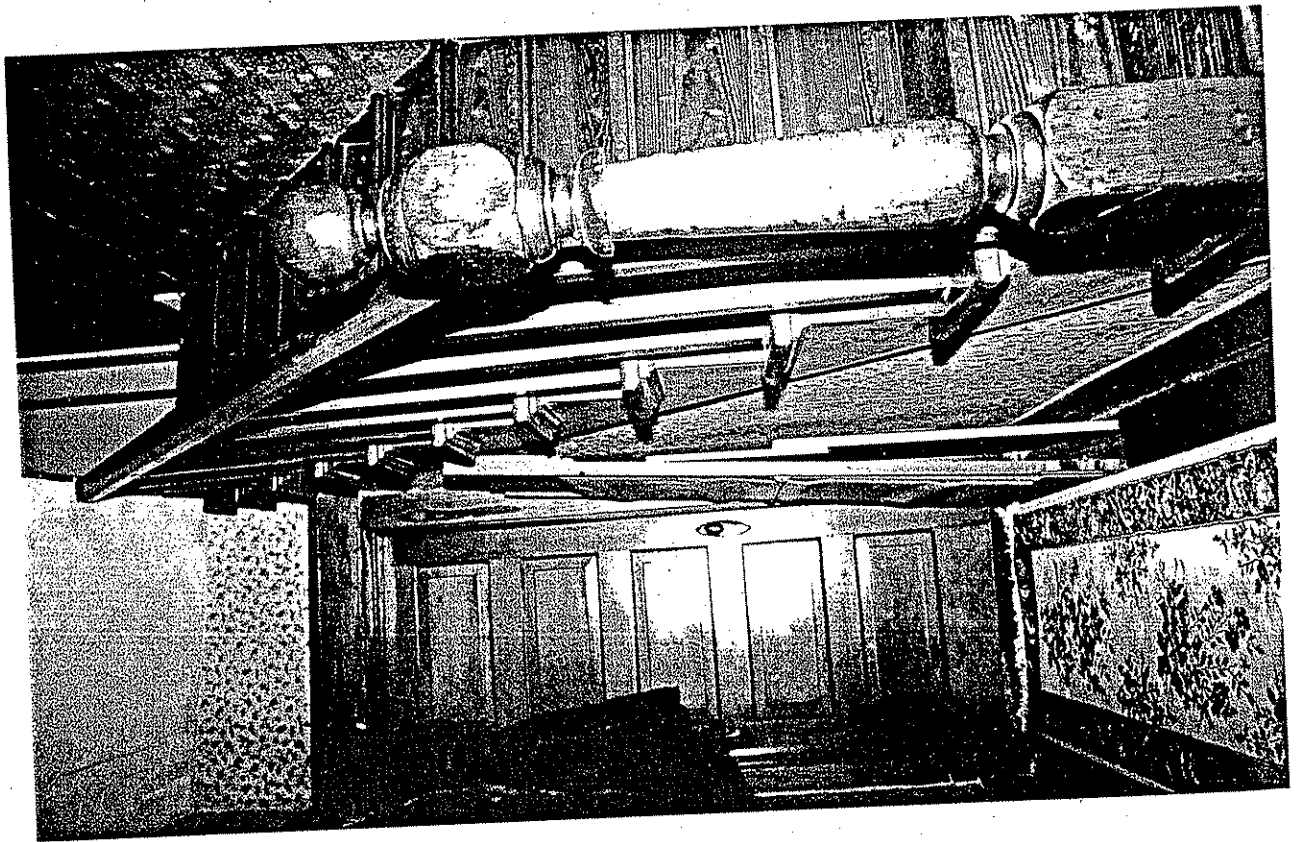
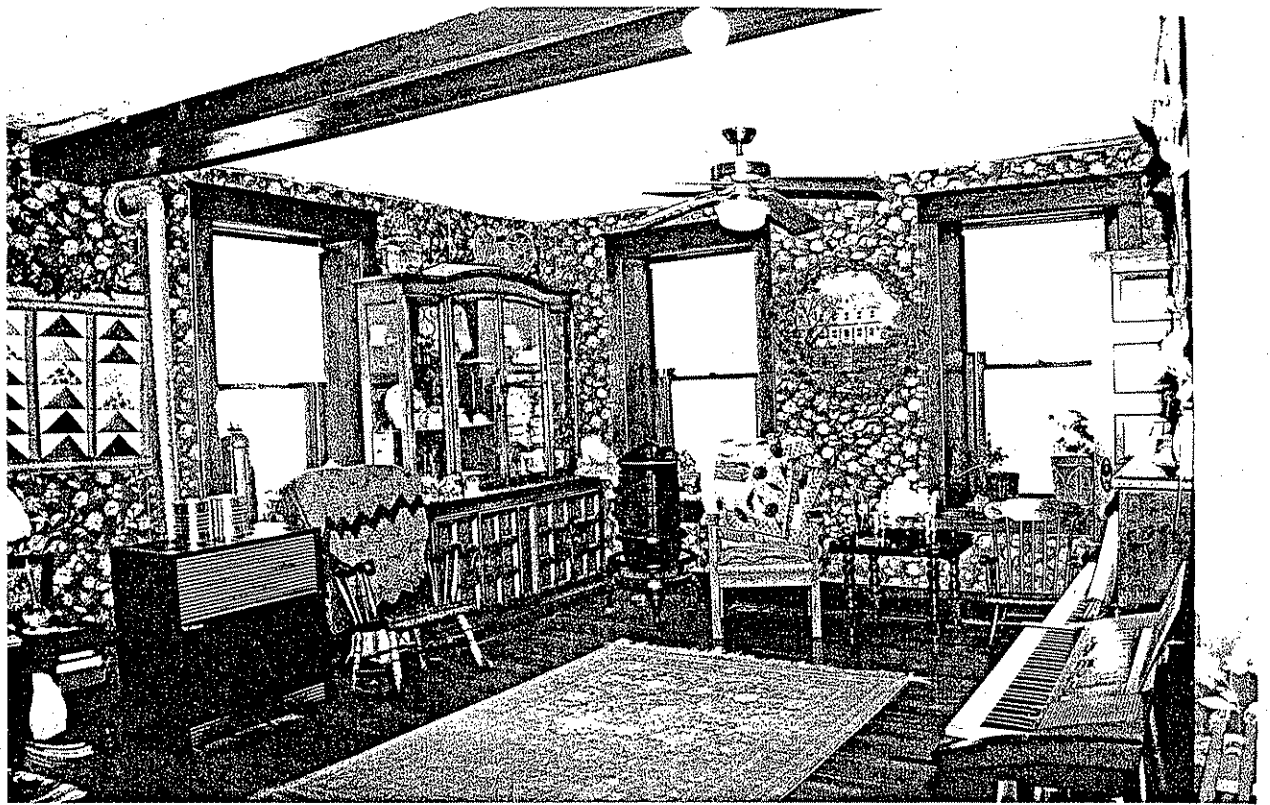
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**Legal Description**

The Staatz House is located in the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 6, Township 14S, Range 5, Liberty Township, Woodbine Vicinity in Dickinson County.





(see IV NE  
WREFFORD)

WOODBINE QUADRANGLE  
KANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

96°52'30"  
38°52'30"



T. 13 S.

T. 14 S.

4304

STAATZ HOUSE  
LYONA,  
DICKINSON COUNTY,  
KANSAS  
UTM REFERENCE:  
14/679234/4303 245

190,000  
FEET

4301